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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/675,678	09/30/2003	Gary Dean Anderson	ROC920030289US1	6756
30206	7590	06/29/2006	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION ROCHESTER IP LAW DEPT. 917 3605 HIGHWAY 52 NORTH ROCHESTER, MN 55901-7829			NGUYEN, TANH Q	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2182	

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/675,678	Applicant(s) ANDERSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Tanh Q. Nguyen	Art Unit 2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2006 (RCE).
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 24, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification only provides support for automatically adjusting port speeds of components connected by the interconnection cable based on the cable identifier [e.g. page 14, lines 10-11], or for automatic configuration of cable

speeds [e.g. page 7, lines 21-29].

The specification does not provide support for automatically reading a cable identifier from an interconnection cable connecting components in the computing environment and the specification does not provide support for automatically storing the cable identifier from the interconnection cable in a software object within the computing environment. The specification merely provides support for reading a cable identifier from an interconnection cable connecting components in the computing environment, and storing the cable identifier from the interconnection cable in a software object within the computing environment [e.g. page 7, lines 23-36; page 14, lines 13-24]. Since the specification is ambiguous about the presence or absence of a claimed automatically reading and automatically storing, the specification cannot be considered to teach the existence of such steps.

5. Claims 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. See the argument regarding the written description above.

6. Claims 4-7, 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the

Art Unit: 2182

subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 recites "the associated interconnection cable" in lines 1-2.

Claim 5 recites "the associated interconnection cable" in lines 1-2.

Claim 6 recites "the associated interconnection cable" in line 6.

Claim 7 recites "the interconnection cable connector" in lines 1-2.

Claim 13 recites "the associated interconnection cable" in line 2.

Claim 14 recites "the associated interconnection cable" in line 6.

Claim 15 recites "the interconnection cable connector" in lines 1-2.

There are insufficient antecedent bases for the limitations in the respective claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a

Art Unit: 2182

later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kopelovitz et al. (US 2002/0138604) in view of Faddell et al. (USP 5,938,742).

10. As per claim 1, Kopelovitz teaches a method, the method comprising:
automatically reading a cable identifier (path attributes) from an interconnection cable connecting components in the computing environment [Abstract, [0027], [0076]];

automatically storing the cable identifier from the interconnection cable in a software object (database) within the computing environment [Abstract].

Kopelovitz does not teach automatically adjusting port speeds of components connected by the interconnection cable. Faddell teaches adjusting port speeds of components connected by the interconnection cable [col. 45, lines 47-58]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Kopelovitz with Faddell because the combination would allow for automatically reconfiguring the port speeds of the components connected by the interconnection cable [col. 7, lines 5-17].

11. As per claims 2-3, Faddell teaches the reconfiguration being triggered upon system bring-up [power up: col. 2, lines 30-42], and during run time [hot plugging: col. 2, lines 25-30];

Art Unit: 2182

12. As per claims 4-5, Kopelovitz teaches the cable identifier containing the length and the type of the interconnection cable [[0024], [0027]].

13. As per claim 7, Kopelovitz/Faddell does not teach a voltage supply of the interconnection cable connector and bias resistors on the connected components creating the cable identifier. It was however known in the art to identify a cable type using the voltage supply on the cable connector and bias resistors on the connected components. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the voltage supply of the interconnection cable connector and bias resistors on the connected components to identify the cable type - hence the cable identifier.

14. As per claim 8, Kopelovitz teaches a database in a computer system - hence a logically partitioned computer system (see rejection of claim 1 above).

15. As per claim 9, Kopelovitz/Faddell teaches the components being I/O peripheral devices. Since it was known in the art at the time the invention was made for I/O devices to be enclosed in a housing for circuitry protection, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enclose the I/O circuitry in order to protect the I/O circuitry - hence the components being I/O enclosures

16. As per claims 10-13, 15-17, the claims generally correspond to claims 1-4, 7-9, and are rejected on the same basis.

Allowable Subject Matter

17. Claims 6, 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base

Art Unit: 2182

claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and if the 112 rejections are overcome.

Response to Arguments

18. Applicant's arguments filed March 24, 2006 have been fully considered but they are either not persuasive or moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The argument that Kopelovitz does not teach "automatically reading a cable identifier from an interconnection cable connecting components in the computing environment" is not persuasive because Kopelovitz teaches "Alternatively and preferably, the values are entered automatically" - see [0076], where values are user attributes.

The argument with respect to claims 8-9 are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection (see rejections above).


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tanh Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4154. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30AM-7:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on 571-272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2182

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



June 23, 2006

TQN

June 23, 2006